following sections is "Government-tax". So, that expression should be used in the definition.

Amendment put and carried

Clause 3 as amended put and carried

Clause 1, Title and Preamble put and carried

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I move that the Bill may be taken up and finally passed to-morrow.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

The Cochin Hindu Law of Inheritance (Amendment) Bill

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Hindu Law of Inheritance (Amendment) Bill be read in Council. I have nothing more to add except what is stated in the statement of objects and reasons.—"Under the Mitakshara School of Hindu Law, (1) the son's daughter, (2) daughter's daughter, (3) sister and (4) sister's son of a deceased male are classified as Bandhus and they inherit his property only after Sapindas and Samanodakas. The Sapinda relationship extends to seven degrees reckoned from and inclusive of the deceased. The Samanodakas of a person include all his agnates from the 8th to the 14th degree and even beyond the 14th degree, if the agnatic relationship be clearly established. It will thus be seen that the persons enumerated as (1), (2), (3) and (4) though closely related to a Hindu male, can inherit his property only after a very large horde of distant relatives are exhausted. In other words, very distant and unknown persons related to the deceased in a remote degree are preferred to those who are nearer and dearer to the deceased. This anomaly has been the subject of severe criticism from great Hindu Law Lawyers. This system is not in keeping with the current Hindu public opinion either. The necessity for a change in this order of inheritance was recognised in British India and by the passing of the Hindu Law of Inheritance (Amendment) Act, 1929, the persons enumerated above as (1), (2), (3) and (4) have been assigned places after Father's Father (of the deceased) and before Father's brother (of the deceased) in the order of succession. The present Bill aims at the same change in the order of succession and is on the same lines of the Hindu Law of Inheritance (Amendment) Act, 1929, now in force in British India". I have nothing more to say except this, that as the Hindu Law stands at present in Cochin very remote relations are preferred in the matter of succession to very near and dear relations like a son's daughter, a daughter's daughter, a sister and sister's son. Current opinion in the Hindu community is that this anomaly should be done away with and nearer relations must be preferred to distant and unheard of relatives. It is with a view to do this that this Bill is introduced. Care has been taken in order to exempt special families or local customs having the force of law, and to preserve the rule of premoginature wherever it exists in the State. I am not aware of any particular case like that; but in order to

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provide of exceptional cases provision has also been made to exempt such cases. I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is the Cochin Hindu Law of Inheritance (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* I move that the Bill may be referred to a select committee consisting of the mover, and Messrs. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar, N. Govinda Pai and the Advocate-General.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon*(Advocate-General):* Sir, I oppose the motion for reference to a select committee on the ground that this is only a short Bill which is exactly on the lines of the British Indian Act of 1929. If the House is of opinion that public opinion is to be elicited, it may be circulated for public opinion. The Bill is similar to the Act passed in British India. I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by a reference to a select committee. The subject matter of this Bill has been engaging the attention of Government and it was decided to leave the initiation of the necessary legislation in this behalf to the non-official side of the House. Now that this Bill is introduced Government have issued orders that the Bill may be supported by Government.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* I would like to see that a Bill of mine becomes law very early. The Government position was not made clear at first. I do not want a select committee then.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* There are 3 Bills. I may be allowed to move them all together.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* They are entirely different.

The Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Act (Amendment) Bill No. 1.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Agriculturist's Relief Act (Amendment) Bill No. I be read in Council.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* I second it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Before I enter into the principles of the Bill, which I have just now introduced, I wish to

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